MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY

STUDENT ID NO

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FINAL EXAMINATION

TRIMESTER 2, 2019/2020

LEA1027
ENGLISH FOR ACADEMIC PURPOSES
(All groups/sections)

4 MARCH 2020
9.00AM – 11.00AM
(2 Hours)

INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENTS

1. This question paper consists of **SIX** pages with **TWO** sections.
2. Answer **ALL** questions in the Answer Booklet provided.

SECTION A: READING [30 MARKS]

Instruction: Read the passage carefully and answer ALL questions that follow.

Putting the Smallest First

1 Vishal, the son of a farm labourer in the west Indian state of Maharashtra, is almost four. He should weigh around 16kg (35lb). But scooping him up from the floor costs his nursery teacher, a frail woman in a faded sari, little effort. She slips Vishal's scrawny legs through two holes cut in the corners of a cloth sack, which she hooks to a weighing scale. The needle stops at just over 10kg—what a healthily plump one-year-old should weigh.

2 The teacher nods and puts Vishal back on the floor, where he sits listlessly before a jigsaw puzzle. That his teacher does not look perturbed is unsurprising. Nearly half of India's young children are malnourished: one of the highest rates of underweight children in the world, higher than most countries in sub-Saharan Africa. More than one-third of the world's 150 million malnourished under-fives live in India.

3 That makes the sight of small, skinny children depressingly routine. Vishal's rural village is not especially impoverished; 120km (75 miles) from Mumbai, India's financial centre, it offers factory-work as well as the farm labour most country people do. But the battered register in Vishal's nursery, a government-run centre known as an *anganwadi* (literally, courtyard), shows that close to half the children are malnourished, a handful chronically so. "It's always been this way," says Sunanda, the *anganwadi* teacher, who has weighed the children in her care every month for 25 years. "Nothing has changed."

4 Almost as shocking as the prevalence of malnutrition in India is the country's failure to reduce it much, despite rapid growth. Since 1991, GDP has more than doubled, while malnutrition has decreased by only a few percentage points. Meanwhile, the chasm between lucky and unlucky Indian children is growing: under-fives in rural areas are more likely to be underweight than urban children, low-caste children than higher-caste children, girls rather than boys. Apart from that, the disparities are growing. India seems certain to miss one of its key Millennium Development Goals: halving malnutrition by 2015.

5 Malnutrition places a heavy burden on India. It is linked to half of all child deaths and nearly a quarter of cases of disease. Malnourished children tend not to reach their potential, physically or mentally, and they do worse at school than they otherwise would. This has a direct impact on productivity: the World Bank reckons that in low-income Asian countries, physical impairments caused by malnutrition knock 3% off GDP. Why, then, has India done so little to reduce it?

6 There are many reasons. Most fundamentally, poor parents find it hard to buy enough food; but that is by no means the only factor. Impoverished and rural families are also less likely to go to a doctor when their children fall sick, which they do a lot, thanks to dirty water and poor hygiene. Inadequate nutrition lowers the immune system, increasing the risk of infectious disease; illness, in turn, depletes a child's nutritional stocks. Tara, a two-year-old in Chandan, a village in the northern state of

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Rajasthan, has yet to bounce back from a bout of gastroenteritis that put her in hospital a year ago. Since then, any weight gain has been offset by frequent bouts of diarrhoea, says her mother, Maya Devi, as she holds her limp child on her lap. Tara weighs a pitiful seven kilos.

7 Even the children of wealthier families suffer surprisingly high rates of malnutrition. Government data show that a third of children from the wealthiest fifth of India's population are malnourished. This is because poor feeding practices—foremost among them a failure exclusively to breastfeed in the first six months—play as big a role in India's malnutrition rates as food shortages. Here lies an opportunity: educating parents about how to feed their children should be more quickly achieved than ensuring that the 410 million Indians who live below the UN's estimated poverty line of $1.25 a day have enough to eat.

8 The government, however, has largely failed in both areas. Two big, expensive schemes designed to reduce malnutrition—a public distribution system (PDS) that provides subsidised food to the poor and a vast midday-meal scheme, to which 120 million schoolchildren are signed up—are hampered by inefficiency and corruption. But the government's main effort to tackle child malnutrition, the Integrated Childhood Development Service (ICDS), has failed for rather different reasons.

9 The ICDS, launched in 1975, is the world's biggest early-childhood scheme. It provides, in theory, an *anganwadi* centre with one teacher and an assistant for every 1,000 people. Each centre is responsible for providing nutritional care to pregnant women and all children up to six, the age at which Indian children start school. *Anganwadi* centres also provide daily pre-school child care and education, as well as keeping a dozen-odd registers recording everything from children's weights to financial accounts.

10 Overburdened by this long list of responsibilities, anganwadi workers have tended to focus on the group they see every day: children over the age of two whose mothers take advantage of free child care and daily meals offered by the centres. While these meals—supposedly providing each child with an extra 500 calories a day—are certainly beneficial, they do not replace the nutritional guidance the parents of young children need. More seriously, this emphasis on older children means that the under-twos and pregnant women barely get a turn.

11 Unfortunately, this is precisely the group the government should be targeting. Most growth retardation occurs by the age of two and is irreversible. Often, it starts during pregnancy. More than half the women of childbearing age in India are anaemic—a condition that can be much improved by fortifying food—and 30% of Indian children are born underweight. In healthy infants, this could be corrected with six months of exclusive breastfeeding. But especially in rural India, where women often go back to the fields mere days after giving birth, babies' diets are often supplemented with cow's milk and water, which exposes them to infection.

12 That risk increases after six months, with the introduction of solid food. The quality and reach of ICDS centres varies from state to state: the most impoverished states, with the highest rates of malnutrition, also have the lowest numbers of centres. But countrywide, the scheme suffers from

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the usual ailments of public services in India. Recently the production of daily meals served at *anganwadi* centres was taken out of the hands of pilfering contractors and given to groups of local women. A complicated system of payments, however, means that even in a state like Maharashtra, which has done more than most to improve ICDS services, centres must wait four months for cash to pay food bills. The two meals served at Vishal's *anganwadi*—a plate of puffed rice dotted with a few nuts and a serving of sprouted *moong dal*—seem unlikely to provide 500 calories. Vandana Krishna, the state's secretary of Women and Child Development, says the funding gap could be solved by giving village *panchayats*, or local governments, a special fund to make loans to *anganwadis*. But this would need a lot of money.

13 So too would any significant improvement in the government's efforts to fight child malnutrition—with one exception. Fortifying the food handed out by the PDS would be an economical and effective way to lower rates of anaemia and increase nutrition. So far, India has resisted that idea. But most experts agree that the country will *make a serious dent* in child malnutrition only when it focuses on pregnant women and the very young, perhaps by providing an additional worker in each *anganwadi* centre to make home visits. "India has missed its big window of opportunity by not giving priority to mothers and the under-threes," says Victor Aguayo, chief of Unicef's nutrition programme in India. "*It cannot afford to do so any longer*."

Adapted from: Pada, G. (2012). Child malnutrition in India; Putting the smallest first. The Economist.
Retrieved from https://www.economist.com/Node/17090948

Question I (5 marks)
Instructions: Find a word in the passage for each of the meaning below.

1. unattractively thin and bony (paragraph 1) (1 mark)
2. (of a person or area) made poor (paragraph 3) (1 mark)
3. a profound difference between people, viewpoints and feelings (paragraph 4) (1 mark)
4. supported financially (paragraph 8) (1 mark)
5. the action of delaying or slowing the progress or development of something (paragraph 11) (1 mark)

Question II (5 marks)
Instructions: Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. In your own words, what is the main idea of this passage. (1 mark)
2. State the effects of malnutrition on children. (2 marks)
3. Why did the Indian government's efforts to reduce malnutrition failed? Provide one reason. (1 mark)

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4. What is the cost effective solution recommended by the writer to increase child nutrition? (1 mark)

Question III (10 marks)
Instructions: Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. Identify the author's main purpose for writing and provide an evidence from the passage to justify your answer. (2 marks)

2. Identify the overall tone used by the author and provide an example from the passage to justify your answer. (2 marks)

3. Identify the author's overall pattern of organisation and provide an example from the passage to justify your answer. (2 marks)

4. Does the passage show any bias? Provide an explanation for your answer. (2 marks)

5. What can you infer from the phrase "make a serious dent" in Line 112? (1 mark)

6. "It cannot afford to do so any longer" (Line 117) implies that … (1 mark)

SECTION B: GRAMMAR [30 MARKS]

Question I: Sentence Errors (10 marks)
Instructions: This extract contains TEN errors in fragment, run-on, faulty parallelism and faulty modifier. Identify and correct the errors as illustrated in the example.

No.	Line	Error	Correction
0	**1**	**… during her university days. As she was constantly…**	**…during her university days, as she was constantly…**

Siti Sa'adiah Yahya was considered a fashion trend setter during her university **days. As** she was constantly bombarded with numerous questions about the outfits she wore to class daily. The then Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) student was often asked where she bought her fashionable clothing as well as her shawls. That she donned at campus.

That sparked Sa'adiah, who was about to graduate at that time with a degree in accountancy in 2011, to set up her own little business from her dormitory room where she sold shawls sourced from Masjid Jamek in Kuala Lumpur. Sa'adiah coined her business Qaysaa which derived from the combination of a few names: a niece named Qaseh who she was extremely close to, her sister Ayu and the first three letters of her own name.

After entering the corporate world, Sa'adiah focused on her work at an audit firm and later as a television provider while selling shawls on a part time basis via various online platforms. Yet, at the end of the day, her heart still longed for the fashion business and she decided to quit and venturing into it full time.

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From a university dormitory room, Sa'adiah, together with her husband, Saiful Dzulkifli evolved their business from an online presence to having a physical store in Alam Avenue 2, Section 16 in 2014. Soon, Qaysaa will also boast its very own mobile application which is expected to be launched in November.

Sa'adiah and Saiful, back then, only had each other to run the business which specialises in Muslimah wear such as jubah, baju kurung, tops, pants as well as shawls. Which takes inspiration from fashion design and styles from Central Asian countries. Today, they have seven permanent staff running the business operations, there are 25 tailors as well as 50 dropshippers from all over the country. Saiful said their Muslimah-centric clothing collections attract an average monthly traffic of 50,000 while their humble, minimalist store receives about 200 customers weekly. Qaysaa commits itself to launching two sets of brand new collections every week - once on Wednesday and once during the weekend.

There are eight new collections released monthly with 15 new designs. In order to keep up with the fast moving fashion trends and to give their customers the latest designs, Saiful and Sa'adiah fly to Guangzhou in China thrice annually, they source for fabrics such as cotton linen, cotton, polymix as well as nylon. Saiful and Sa'adiah's roving eyes would look for subtle and pastel colours apart from flower motives and simple designed that are not too over the top and pleasing to the eyes. Upon returning from the trips, no time was wasted by Sa'adiah and an in-house fashion designer in going to the drawing board to sketch new designs.

Saiful said that pricing strategy has hit a sweet spot with their customers. This has paved the way for customers to buy more of their clothings which also turns out to be an effective marketing strategy and promotes a sense of sharing among our customers.

Their growing fan base sees them shipping off about 2,500 parcels, which are filled with some 8,000 pieces of clothings. To customers not just in Malaysia but also to America, United Kingdom, Dubai, Russia, Indonesia, Australia, Brunei and Singapore, on a monthly basis. Qaysaa also makes it a point to bring their fashion photoshoots beyond the confines of their studio by going outdoors.

They have ventured far to exotic overseas destinations for their Hari Raya campaigns such as Rome and Tunisia to show that their clothing are suitable and comfort to be worn abroad. Coming from humble beginnings and now on solid footing, Saiful and his wife want to inspire and encourage more people, especially youngsters, to dive into the world of online business and digital marketing. They do this by giving talks and telling the story of building Qaysaa, its successes, challenges and what lies ahead, at sharing sessions at local universities and institutions.

Adapted from Chan, D. (2019). *Qaysaa hopes encourage online business, digital marketing.* The News Straits Time. *Retrieved from* https://www.nst.com.my/lifestyle/flair/2019/11/535627/qaysaa-hopes-encourage-online-business-digital-marketing

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Question II (10 Marks)
Instruction: Rewrite the sentences below into Indirect Speech.

1. "We have discovered that the people's personal interests and desire for a better life were among the reasons why this happened," he said today. (2 marks)

2. "The Hillside bungalow, which will be operating as the Hillside Retreat, is being renovated and is expected to begin operations by the end of this month," Harry told the reporters. (2 marks)

3. "It is therefore crucial that we find the right balance between growth and measures needed to address climate change, environmental degradation and sustainable utilisation of Malaysia's natural endowment," the Minister said in his speech. (2 marks)

4. "Since gaining Independence in 1957, Malaysia has consistently taken into account the economic, social and environmental aspects in our development plans," Albert mentioned yesterday. (2 marks)

5. "The efforts will include government agencies at different levels of government, non-profit organisations, the private sector, academia, organised civil society and individuals," Samantha, the spokesperson said. (2 marks)

Question III (10 Marks)
Instructions: Write complete sentences using the phrasal verbs provided below. Each sentence must consist of a minimum 12 words.

1. walk out
2. take down
3. write up
4. wash up
5. read over
6. dry off
7. drive off
8. carry out
9. count on
10. live up to

End of Paper